

Poverty Assessment

Description: The poverty project is a comprehensive assessment that will assess poverty AND identify the implications and consequences of living in poverty. The final product will be a publication that describes the level of poverty and its economic, social, and health implications for the Spokane County. The measure of poverty we will be using is the costs of basic living necessities (minimum living standard). The minimum living standard is not the accepted standard of living rather it is a standard of minimal means. The first step of this assessment is to establish a community definition of minimum living standard. Then, through community process and key informant interviews the various impacts of living at the minimum standard will be identified and assessed. This assessment is community driven and community owned.

The Spokane Regional Health District and United Way of Spokane County are leading this assessment. However, many community organizations will be guiding this assessment through involvement in a core planning group and an advisory committee. The core planning group will oversee the process of the assessment and will guide the implementation of resulting strategies to address individuals living at or below the minimum living standard in Spokane County. The advisory committee will influence the contents of the assessment through identification of the impacts of living at a minimum standard.

Purpose: The final product of this effort will serve as a baseline for community planning in Spokane County. The published assessment will be a significant community reference. It will determine specific community needs and reveal the implications of living at and below a minimum standard.

Goals:

Identify community needs

1. Provide a framework for establishing strategies to bring resources into Spokane to reduce the prevalence of poverty and mitigate its consequences
2. Serve as a policy development resource for community leaders

Send feedback, comments or suggestions to [Shanda Diehl](#).